

Depart From Me

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Mat 7:21-23 NIV - *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'*

Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

The above verses are the most chilling verses in the New Testament, but important enough that Jesus mentioned these verses near the end of one of His teachings. As it is with many topics in the scriptures, there are several camps of thought on the meaning of this message. We have a unique passage here where Jesus is saying what He will say to certain individuals attempting to enter Heaven. This article will discuss several aspects of the above scriptures, with no desire to support any particular doctrine on salvation ... of which there are many.

Lord, Lord

The verses start out with Jesus saying you cannot just say "Lord, Lord" and then He is your Lord, you must have a transformation of your heart and truly follow Him. You cannot just give lip service to Jesus being your Lord, without you following His commands, or in these verses "do the will His Father". The following verse in Luke 6:46 is another scripture that supports the notion that Jesus will question the state of His Lordship in our lives:

Luk 6:46 NIV - *"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"*

This verse, along with Matthew 7:21-23, is important because Jesus goes on to say that we should demonstrate that He is our Lord by our actions.

Many Will Say

Whoa, the next verse is even more disturbing for us to consider. The next line reads, "Many will say to me on that day". This is the source of great importance for Jesus and Our Heavenly Father. Think about this verse for a moment, Jesus is saying that many will come to Him saying they were good workers who did many signs and wonders for the kingdom. Jesus is saying that many will come before Him and think they can get into heaven, but will be refused.

This is the purpose for Jesus bringing up this topic ... because it is not His will that any would be turned away.

Debating



We see that the individuals Jesus is speaking with do their best to try and demonstrate that they have been doing what He wants in their work, or they would not be mentioning their deeds in an effort to prove they are worthy to get into heaven. They even tell Jesus that they did their work in His name. We see this same behavior in the following verses in Luke 13:25.

Luk 13:25 NIV - *Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'*

"Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

"But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'"

In these verses the people are indicating that they know Jesus well, because they ate and drank with Him.

I Don't Know You

Jesus tells the individuals that He does not know them, but we know that this is a figure of speech. Can there truly be anyone that exist who is not known by the Lord. In Luke chapter 12 Jesus tells the crowd that has gathered the following:

Luk 12:6-7 NIV - *Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies ? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*

Some say that the “I don’t know you” statement by Jesus is an indication that these folks are not saved, but that is difficult to determine since at one time these folks were obviously believing in Jesus and using His name to work against the devil, hence casting out demons.

I Know You Lord

We can talk at length about whether or not these folks were “never saved” or “had lost their salvation” ... but I think the issue is more disturbing than what it appears. The issue is that these folks thought they were eternally secure. We can see this from their attempts to convince Jesus that they believe in Him and did good works in His name. Let’s look again at the verses:

Mat 7:21-23 NIV - *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'*

Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

We see that these individuals are calling Him “Lord, Lord..” which provides insight that they know Him or know of Him and His authority. The verse continues with verbiage that indicates that they are puzzled about Jesus refusing their entry into heaven. They continue to explain that they did many signs and wonders in His authority and they obviously believed in His authority, because they used the authority of His name.

Once again, the issue is not about knowing whether or not these individuals are saved ... the chilling message is that these folks thought they were OK to enter into heaven. Once again Jesus’ warning is that many people will think they are ready for His return and/or that they are ready to enter into heaven, but they are not.

Food For Thought

We cannot measure our eternal security by signs and wonders. God performs the signs and wonders for the sake of His Glory, not because we have any glory or deeds that bring His power. Remember He does not perform miracles because of us, but despite of us.

Another point that can be learned by the verses in Matthew chapter 27:21-23 is that you cannot cover up your sin with good deeds, or with signs and wonders. True repentance and the blood of the lamb (Jesus) blots out sin. In the above verses Jesus says “away from me you evil

doers". The original word used for evil doers is anomia from the Greek, meaning "without law", violation of the law, iniquity or wickedness. These folks were being sent away because of their lawlessness or sin. They were not being admitted into heaven because of the work they did in Jesus' name.



The Lord desires true repentance of sin, not a busybody doing good works because they sinned. Yes, we should do good works, but not with the mindset that good works make up for sin in our lives ... it does not.

I think John the Baptist said it the best when he was talking to the religious leaders in his day:

Mat 3:8 NIV - *Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*

He even called them a "brood of vipers", these leaders were serving as gatekeepers to the Kingdom and not as bridge builders for people to enter. Jesus would have also told these leaders that "he does not know" them as well.

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